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MEMORAHEAM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Status Report on Berlin in the Light of the Ehrushchev Statement of Rovember 10.

in response to your request for information regarding the present Berlin situation resulting from the Khrushchev speech of Rovember 10, I enclose a status report on this subject.

BRISTIAN AN HERTER

Acting Secretary

Snolosure: Status Report. S/S-RO NOVI 3, 1958 A to Verby of Day of purish

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A Status Report on Berlin in the Light of The Ahrashthev Statement of Bovember 10

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The Khrushohev statement on Berlin has naturally occused concern in Berlin and West Germany. Hewspapers carried the story in banner headlines. Aditorial reactions were, however, generally moderate and cool-headed; they expressed confidence in Western guarantees to Berlin and interpreted the Khrushbayv statement as a move in the war of narves, possibly connected with the coming East German and Berlin elections, rather than as a prelude to the actual withdrawal of V.L.C.S. authorities from Berlin or to drastic harasament of the city. The Berlin population has so far reacted in a similar unhysterical faculton. Berlin officials have called upon the Three Powers to demonstrate as effectively as possible the determination of the Three Powers to honor their Berlin commitments.

Although we have heard the reactions of one working-level foreign Office official we do not yet know the views of foreign becretary Brentano or Chancellor Ademaner. Ambassador Grewe called on the Under Secretary on November 12 to express the deep concern of the Federal Government at the implications of the Chrushchev statement.

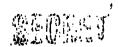
Although there are a variety of speculations regarding boviet motivation this action seems clearly related to a long-standing boviet desire to force the Mestern Powers into de facto recognition of an Mast German regime through the creation of situations on allied access routes to Berlin calculated to compel the Mestern Fowers to deal with mast German officials.

The Department in public statements is emphasizing our quadripartite responsibilities in Berlin and the unsuceptability of Soviet unilateral abrogation of specific quedrilateral agreements on Berlin (other than the Potsdam Agreement which is not pertinent to our position in Berlin).

Consideration is being given to the desirability of some tripartite reaffirmation of the Western position on Berlin. There is, newser, some difference of view as to whether this would be useful at the present time. The British and Germans at the working level believe it would demonstrate our nervousness more than our determination and we think it advisable to wait at least a few days to see how the situation develops before issuing a tripartite statement. This is in line with our belief that our wisest course is to avoid actions which might over-dramatise the present situation.

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We are reviewing our contingency planning on Berlin in case the Soviet Union carries out Khrushchev's threat to our position in Berlin.

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